

**Ferris State University  
Academic Senate Regular Meeting  
October 2, 2007 – 10:00 a.m.  
West Campus Community Center**

**I. Call to Order: President Griffin** called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**II. Roll Call Attendance – Secretary Ngoh called the roll.**

*Officers Present:* President Richard Griffin, Secretary Lucy Ngoh, Vice-President Khagendra Thapa,  
*Officers Absent:* Past President Adnan Dakkuri

*Senators Present:* Abbasabadi, Alspach, Beistle, Berghoef, Carter, Cline, Cron, Danley, Ding, Drake,  
Goosen, Hancock, Haneline, Hansen, Jewett, Klatt, Liszewski, McMartin, Morcom, Nagel, Nelson,  
Sanderson, Sun, Watson,

*Senators Absent:* Hardman, Kouider, McLean, Potter, Purvis (excused), Van De Mark, Weemaes

*Ex-Officio Members Present:* President David Eisler, Interim VPAA Tom Oldfield, Joe Viviano, FSU Student  
Govt. President

*Ex-Officio Members Absent:* None

*Guests:* Leonard Johnson, Ellen Haneline, Michelle Johnston, David Nicol, Roberta Teahen, Don Flickinger

**III. Approval of the September 4, 2007 minutes.**

**Senator Jewett**, with support from **Senator Alspach**, moved to accept the minutes of September 4, 2007, 10:00 a.m. with the following correction: Item A, New Business, Dr. Carter also agreed to remain on the Emeriti Committee. Motion carried.

**IV. Open Forum**

**Senator Drake** offered that this meeting marks the twenty-first anniversary of the Ferris State University Academic Senate.

**V. Reports**

**President Griffin** reported that an article about Dr. Eisler is in today's Pioneer newspaper.

**Vice President Thapa** reported that there are still openings on the Ad Hoc E-Learning Committee; he also stated that openings remain for Senators on Senate Committees, as well as faculty members. If you are interested in filling one of the vacant seats, please contact Dr. Thapa or the Academic Senate Office.

**Secretary Ngoh** had no report at this time.

**Dr. Robert Von der Osten** updated the Senators on University Planning meetings and distributed a draft document with dates of upcoming meetings (Attachment A). The first meeting will review distinctiveness and review the mission statement of the University. Other meetings will identify opportunities for the future and core values. The group is looking for input from the campus community. SPARC will be meeting on 10/15/07 and invites members of the Senate to attend. Dr. Von der Osten stated that on Oct. 16 all but essential departmental meetings will be cancelled so that faculty members can have the opportunity to attend a mission statement meeting. Additional conferences will be held in late October and November. Please try to attend and urge your colleagues to attend. Senator Haneline asked if FSU/GR is attending any of the sessions. Dr. Von der Osten stated they have their own economic charge, are distinctive by the charter, and will develop a process that meets their needs, as we have some differences that deserve respect. We are working with them building a parallel process. Senator Thapa praised Dr. Von der Osten for his very good work.

**VI. Committee Reports**

**University Curriculum Committee – UCC Chair Leonard Johnson** advised the Senate that they would be voting on two proposals for closure of programs later in the meeting and provided a written report (Attachment B of these minutes). He reminded Senators that the UCC meets every Wednesday at 9 a.m. during this semester. Any curriculum changes that are planned to go into effect by Spring 2008 must be received in the Academic Senate Office by Monday, October 8, for consideration at the UCC meeting on October 10. There is still one vacant seat for the College of Optometry that would be open to any person who is interested in serving for a one year term if we are not able to fill that seat with a faculty member from Optometry.

## VII. New Business

### A. Adopt Assessment Statement – Dr. Robert Von der Osten

Motion by Senator Haneline, with support from Senator Thapa, to endorse the Assessment Statement Draft (Attachment C) presented by Dr. Von der Osten. Following a brief discussion, President Griffin called the question. Motion carried.

### B. Closure of International Business BS Program – L. Johnson, Chair, UCC

**Senator Haneline, with support from Senator Alspach, moved to approve** the program closure. Faculty member Bill Smith, College of Business, was present to respond to questions and concerns. No faculty positions are being lost, students in the program are being advised, no courses are being removed, only the title of a degree. Following a brief discussion, motion carried.

### C. Closure of BS in Small Business and Entrepreneurship – L. Johnson, Chair, UCC

**Senator Haneline, with support from Senator Alspach, moved to approve** the program closure. No faculty positions are being lost, students in the program are being advised, no courses are being removed, only the title of a degree. Following a brief discussion, motion carried.

### D. Graduate Council Membership Change – Nancy Hogan, Chair, University Graduate and Professional Council

**Senator Papo, with support from Senate Carter, moved to accept** the proposed membership changes for the University Graduate and Professional Council outlined in Attachment D. The committee would like to add a member for each graduate program offered by Ferris State University. Following a lengthy discussion, **Senator Haneline moved to table** the issue, with support from **VP Thapa** until the next Senate meeting. Motion to table carried.

### E. Ad Hoc Committee for Fact Gathering, re: Admissions Standards – Bill Papo, Senator

**Senator Papo, with support from Senator Nagel, moved that** the Academic Senate form an Ad Hoc Committee for the purpose of gathering facts regarding Ferris Admission Standards, the pro's and con's of the past raising of standards (2.5 GPA or 17 ACT) and possible results of raising them to a higher level. This committee should report to the Senate at its December 2007 meeting, so a meaningful discussion can be had at that time. Any recommendations from that discussion in the Senate might be made available to the Board of Trustees, the University President and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

This critical topic needs input put from the Academic Community, of which we are their elected voice. Ferris has raised its admissions standards step by step in the last six years; any change in admissions standards affects the academic profile of the University and the pool of students available to individual programs; faculty carry out the educational mission of the University.

Following a discussion, motion fails.

## VIII. Announcements

**President Eisler** reported that he saw the Emeriti Committee members at the Grand Opening of the Emeriti Office, and stated that there are four alumni/emeriti events scheduled in Florida. He urged Senators to encourage their students to complete the Diversity Survey. He thanked Dr. Von der Osten for his work on

the Strategic Planning Committee. He stated that he has been watching the legislative proceeding via the computer, there is still a \$435 million shortfall in the budget and that the next 30 days will be critical. The IRC dedication is set for October 19, 2007, at 2:00 p.m.

**Interim Vice President Oldfield** informed the Senate that he has been notified that our Perkins allocation has not been released, so equipment funding will be delayed. There was a drop in transfer students this year and the Dean's Council will be reviewing that issue. He will be putting together a Self Study Committee for the Higher Learning Commission visit in 2010-2011. Enid Carlson-Nagel will be identifying grants in the VPAA's Office.

**President Griffin had no report.**

**Vice President Thapa** stated that there have been problems with committee members not attending meetings. He stated that the first meeting of Senate Committees should be scheduled for Oct. 9 at 11:00 a.m. The meeting callers have been asked to take attendance and to make sure that minutes are sent to the Senate Office for posting at each committee's webpage.

**IX. Open Forum – No comments at this time.**

**X. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn at 11:25 a.m.**

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Lucy Ngoh, Secretary

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Richard Griffin, President